

1. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An autonomous system, comprising:
two or more areas, wherein each area includes a router; and
a probe logically connected to the router in each area and configured to receive link state routing protocol data from the router in each area when the router in each area floods the link state routing protocol data throughout the autonomous system.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the link state routing protocol data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost of each link, router, and network within an area.
5. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring link state routing protocol data, comprising:
two or more areas to be monitored, wherein each area includes a router; and
a probe logically connected to and at least partially adjacent to the router in each area and configured to receive link state routing protocol data from the router in each area when the router in each area floods the link state routing protocol data throughout the autonomous system.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the link state routing protocol data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost of each link, router, and network within an area.

9. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the two or more areas are included in a single autonomous system.

10. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein at least one area to be monitored is included in a first autonomous system and at least one area to be monitored is included in a second autonomous system.

11. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the~~ centralized collection of link state routing protocol data from a plurality of areas, comprising:

selecting a router in ~~an~~ each area from which to collect ~~the~~ link state routing protocol data ~~from, wherein the link state routing protocol data is collected from two or more areas~~ corresponding to the area; and

establishing a logical connection and at least partial adjacency ~~with~~ between the selected router in each area; ~~and~~ —

~~creating a connection between the selected router in each area~~ and a probe to allow the probe to receive the link state routing protocol data from the selected router in each area.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein establishing ~~a~~ the logical connection with the selected router comprises:

configuring a ~~sub-interface~~ plurality of sub-interfaces on the probe ~~for each area,~~
the plurality of sub-interfaces corresponding to the plurality of areas; and
configuring an IP tunnel from an interface on each selected router to the
corresponding sub-interface on the probe.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein establishing ~~a~~ the
logical connection with the selected router comprises:

configuring ~~an~~ a physical interface on the probe for each area; and
creating a link from each selected router to the probe through the physical
interface.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~creating a connection~~
establishing the at least partial adjacency between each selected router and ~~a~~ the probe
comprises:

establishing ~~an~~ a two-way adjacency between each selected router and the probe.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~creating a connection~~
establishing the at least partial adjacency between each selected router and ~~a~~ the probe
comprises:

establishing a ~~partial~~ one-way adjacency between each selected router and the
probe, wherein the probe only receives link state routing protocol data.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the link state routing protocol
data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost associated with each link, router,
and network within an area.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~creating a connection~~
establishing the logical connection and the at least partial adjacency between the selected
router in each area and ~~a~~ the probe ~~to allow the probe to receive the link state routing~~

~~protocol data from the selected router in each area~~ comprises:

creating a route between the selected router in each area and ~~a~~ the probe to allow the probe to receive the link state routing protocol data from the selected router in each area.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the route between the selected router in each area and the probe comprises a single host route.